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9 October 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

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FROM

Member, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT

Environmental Concerns Relating to the

Headquarters Pipe Laying Project

Following my presentation at the 5 October meeting of the Fine Arts Commission (FAC), you requested that additional. comments, concerns, and opinions be gathered concerning the proposed pipeline route. I arranged a walking tour of the route of the Headquarters and on 6 October L Engineering Branch (HEB), LSD/OL, briefed The FAC.

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expressed essentially the same concerns that I offered in my presentation. The need for additional electrical, steam, and chilled water lines to the Headquarters Building has been firmly established, and the route chosen represents the most accessible to satisfy the requirement. Consequently, those trees in the path of the proposed route will be sacrificed. It was generally agreed that maximum consideration should be given to saving as many trees as possible, but that the proposed route would not vary from its segmented straightline design.

- Concern of the root system of nearby trees was mentioned, but no one could offer a definite answer as to what potential effect the 8-to-10 foot trenching would have. This concern was particularly evident regarding the large, twin-trunked sycamore tree near the North Dock paved area. The proposed pipeline path will be on both sides of this tree.
- The HEB representatives stated that a more detailed landscaping plan was being drafted for the contractor, and that FAC personnel would probably be called upon to mark those trees designated for retention. The route of the temporary pedestrian walkway was also discussed, and it was stated that no trees would be effected by this measure.
- The idea of re-opening the Northeast entrance was voiced, but according to the HEB personnel, Security is not agreeable to this. The North Dock and North Cafeteria entrances will remain

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accessible to all personnel. The contractor will be under certain stipulations as to when and where he can dig, and must cover all road and walkway excavations with metal plating to insure vehicular and pedestrian traffic flow.

- 6. The bottom line of all this is that our concerns may be moot in relation to the extensive building plans being voiced about a new building. Should the optimistic feelings become reality, the whole hill and hundreds of trees will disappear; presumably some of the very trees we are now trying to save.
- 7. My conclusion is that we have done all we can at this point. HEB is aware of and agreeable to our environmental concerns, and has stated they will do as much as they can to satisfy them. We can only wait and see.

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